

News from the FPPC



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FPPC names top ten Independent Expenditure Committees *Spending for Candidates Tops \$88 million*

The Fair Political Practices commission today released the findings of an extensive study documenting more than \$88 million spent on independent expenditures benefiting candidates for state office since the passage of Proposition 34 by California voters in November 2000.

"The voters spoke loud and clear with the approval of Proposition 34 that they want fewer special interest dollars finding their way into candidate campaigns," commented Ross Johnson, Chairman of the Fair Political Practices Commission. "But thanks to an orgy of independent expenditures – just the opposite has occurred."

Proposition 34 imposed limits on direct campaign contributions to candidates for state office. For legislative candidates, Proposition 34 was in effect for the 2002 elections. For statewide elections, the limits did not take effect until after the 2002 elections.

The report noted that in 2000 when there were no contribution limits, total spending on independent expenditure for legislative candidates was \$376,000. By 2006, with contribution limits, independent expenditures benefiting legislative candidates totaled \$23.48 million – a 6,144% increase in just six years.

The dramatic increase for independent expenditures is also reflected in the campaigns for statewide candidates," Johnson continued. "In 2002, there were no limits on direct contributions to candidates for statewide office. Independent expenditures in that election cycle totaled \$526,000. By 2006, when contribution limits were in place for the statewide candidates, independent expenditure spending had jumped to \$29.47 million – that's a 5,502% increase in only four years.

"The astounding increase in independent expenditures benefiting candidates for state office is clearly thwarting the will of the people to limit campaign spending,"

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Johnson emphasized. "This study shows the need for increased disclosure of independent expenditures. We need to make certain that the public is fully aware of who is backing which candidates and how much money is being pumped into their election efforts."

The study also provided a list of the top 10 groups making Independent Expenditures. These 10 groups accounted for \$42 million of the \$88 million spent on independent expenditures spent in the past few years. That list includes:

Rank	Committee Name	Amount
#1	Californians for a Better Government , A Coalition of Firefighters, Police, Deputy Sheriffs, Teachers, Home Builders and Developers ID# 1285498	\$9,855,582
#2	Alliance for a Better California , Educators, Firefighters, School Employees, Health Care Givers and Labor Organizations ID# 1273998	\$5,245,109
#3	First Americans for a Better California Independent Expenditure Committee ID# 1257891	\$4,256,754
#4	JOBS PAC - An Independent Expenditure Committee Sponsored by the California Chamber of Commerce ID# 911819	\$3,900,501
#5	California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) Independent Expenditure Committee ID# 902202	\$3,536,698
#6	Morongo Band of Mission Indians Native American Rights PAC ID# 494203	\$3,378,853
#7	Strengthening Our Lives Through Education , Community Action and Civic Participation, A Coalition of Labor Organizations Candidate PAC ID# 1285612	\$3,306,944
#8	Team 2006 , Sponsored by California Sovereign Indian Nations ID# 1291537	\$3,093,391
#9	Alliance for Progress and Education , An Alliance of Professional, Employers and Small Business ID# 1283921	\$2,953,948
#10	Working Californians ID# 1288733	\$2,637,860
		\$42,165,640

The presentation and Chairman Johnson's comments are available on the FPPC's website at www.fppc.ca.gov under "What's New at FPPC?"